

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A tubular filter element obtained by way of a controlled galvanic electroforming process, said filter element having a flexible perforated laminar structure comprising a deposited metal, the laminar structure having microholes extending between a first surface and a second surface thereof, each microhole having a wall which meets the first surface with a rounded edge or tapered configuration in such a manner that the first surface is substantially smooth.

2. (Currently amended) A filter element structure according to Claim 1, wherein the microholes have a diameter of less than 30 μm .

3. (Currently amended) A filter element structure according to Claim 2, wherein the microholes have a diameter of less than 3-4 μm .

4. (Currently amended) A filter element structure according to Claim 1, wherein the microholes have a polygonal or rhomboid form.

5. (Currently amended) A medical device comprising, at least in part, the laminar a structure of according to Claim 1, the structure having microholes formed therein which are at least sufficiently large to permit the passage of plasma, for example, therethrough.

6. (Original) A medical device according to claim 5 in the form of a prosthetic hip joint, the hip joint having a leg portion comprising a spike and peg and a hip portion comprising a dish and a cap; wherein the spike and the cap comprise said laminar structure.

7. (Original) A medical device according to claim 5, wherein the laminar structure is formed as a cage, respective ends of the cage being securable either side of a break in a bone or to individual bones to promote regeneration of bone structure across said break or between said individual bones.

8. (Previously presented) A medical device according to Claim 5, wherein the structure is of titanium.

9. (Currently amended) A heat sink comprising the laminar a structure of according to Claim 1, one end of said structure being capable of being affixed to a surface from which heat is to be conducted.

10. (Original) A heat sink according to claim 9, wherein the structure is of nickel, silver, gold, brass or titanium.

11. (Canceled) A filter element comprising a laminar structure according to Claim 1 formed as a tube.

12. (Currently amended) A filter element according to claim 1 ~~11~~, wherein the laminar structure is of nickel.

13. (Currently amended) A filter element according to claim 1 ~~11~~, wherein the laminar structure is arranged to facilitate cleaning of the filter element.

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14. (Currently amended) A method of forming the a laminar structure of according claim 1 comprising selectively depositing in a galvanic electroforming process a metal on a matrix arranged at the electroforming cathode to form said structure with a smooth surface formed with microholes meeting the first surface with a rounded or tapered configuration, the walls of said holes having rounded edges and diameters which formed in dependence upon the length of time the structure is placed in a galvanic bath used in said process and the desired thickness of the laminar structure.

15. (Original) A method according to claim 14, wherein the metal is nickel, gold, silver, brass or titanium.

16. (New) A filter element according to claim 1, wherein the thickness of the laminar structure is 80 microns to 500 microns.

17. (New) A filter element according to claim 1, wherein the density of the microholes is between 10 holes/mm and 2 holes/mm.

18. (New) A filtering device comprising a filter element according to claim 1.

19. (New) A filter element according to claim 1, wherein the microholes have a diameter of less than 60 microns.

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